

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OPR-02 AID-05 OMB-01 SAB-01

SCCT-01 A-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 EB-07

COME-00 AGR-05 FEA-01 OES-03 TRSE-00 IO-10 ACDA-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /125 W

----- 021867

O P 271037Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6413

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2972

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 12041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT TRIES HARD TO RETURN TO NORMAL, BUT FIGHTING
WON'T GO AWAY

REF: BEIRUT 12021

1. FIGHTING TOOK PLACE IN MANY OF THE USUALLY HOT
QUARTERS OF EAST BEIRUT NIGHT OF SEPT 26-27 AT ABOUT
SAME INTENSITY AS PREVIOUS NIGHT. SLOW DROP IN LEVEL
OF STRIFE THUS HOPEFULLY REMAINS PATTERN, BUT PERSISTENCE
OF FIGHTING CAUSING SOME OBSERVERS TO FEAR ROUND 4
WILL DRAG ON FOR SOME TIME.

2. AS OF 1200 HOURS (LOCAL) SEPT 27, USUAL DAY-
LIGHT LULL IN HEAVIEST FIGHTING PREVAILS.
SNIPERS ARE CITY'S MAIN DAYTIME PROBLEM. TRAFFIC
IS UP EVEN FROM IMPROVED LEVEL OF DAY BEFORE. AIR-
PORT ROAD IS OPEN. AIRPORT ACTIVITIES ARE MORE OR
LESS NORMAL, DESPITE CONTINUING FUEL SHORTAGE.
CITY IS MAKING DETERMINED EFFORT TO NORMALIZE.

3. ACCORDING TO INTERNAL SECURITY HQ, TREND TOWARD
DISARMING OF BARRICADES IS OCCURRING AS POLICE AS-
SUME CHARGE OF MANY OF THESE STRONGPOINTS FROM
PRIVATE MILITIAMEN. BUT THIS IS CLEARLY A CON-
TINUING PROBLEM FOR HARASSED INTERNAL SECURITY
FORCES. APPARENTLY, IT IS NOT RPT NOT TRUE THAT
ARMY HELPING INTERNAL SECURITY IN CITY, CONTRARY
TO SEPT 25 ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL), ALTHOUGH LOANS
OF ARMY'S ARMORED VEHICLES TO POLICE--A LONG-
STANDING PRACTICE--HAVE BEEN STEPPED UP.

4. ANOTHER HOPEFUL SIGN IS THAT THE DORMANT CEASE-
FIRE COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF SECURITY FORCES REPRE-
SENTATIVE, PLO REP TEWFIQ SAFADI, AND DANY CHAMOUN
(WHO REPLACED HIS BROTHER) WILL BE BEEFED UP WITH
A PHALANGE REP AND A MEMBER OF RAYMOND EDDE'S NA-
TIONAL BLOC PARTY.

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5. CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS ALMOST CERTAINLY BEING
COMMITTED BY BOTH SIDES. PREDICTABLY, MOSLEMS
AND LEFTISTS BLAME PHALANGE STUBBORNNESS WHILE
CHRISTIANS SEE MALEVOLENT HAND OF LIBYANS AND
OTHERS BEHIND EXTREME LEFT. THE PREVIOUSLY RE-
PORTED FIGHT BETWEEN PHALANGE AND LEFTIST PPS IN
METN AREA IS TAKEN BY CHRISTIANS AS SIGN OF LEFTIST

PLOT TO KEEP TROUBLE BOILING. THIS BATTLE STILL
CONTINUING AT SOMEWHAT LOWERED INTENSITY WITH IN-
TERNAL SECURITY NOW TRYING TO DISARM MILITANTS OF
PPS.

6. A SHARP VERBAL ATTACK BY LEFTIST LEADER KEMAL
JUMBLATT AGAINST THE PHALANGE SEPT 26, PUBLISHED IN

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OPR-02 AID-05 OMB-01 SAB-01

SCCT-01 A-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01 OC-05 CCO-00 EB-07

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SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /125 W

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O P 271037Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6414

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

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USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2973

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 12041

BEIRUT PRESS TODAY, HAS REKINDLED POLITICAL TEMPERATURE. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO RECONCILIATION WITH THE PHALANGE, WITH HE CLAIMED WAS POLITICALLY ISOLATED, BEFORE BASIC LEFTIST DEMANDS ARE MET. HE ALSO ATTACKED LONG-TIME MOSLEM LEADER SAEB SALAAM FOR "WISHING TO EXTEND HIS DOMINION OVER THE MOSLEMS OF BEIRUT." JUMBLATT SAID THESE MOSLEMS WERE MORE PROPERLY REPRESENTED BY JUMBLATT HIMSELF. THESE REMARKS MAKING OBSERVERS WONDER WHAT THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE WHEN "NATIONAL DIALOGUE COMMITTEE" RENEWS TALKS SEPT 29.

7. A PARTICIPANT IN LAST THURSDAY'S OPENING SESSION OF THE "DIALOGUE" TELLS US THAT THE 20-MAN GROUP MAY BE ENLARGED, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY BEFORE THE SEPT 29 SESSION. PRIMIN KARAME HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANSION THROUGH PRIVATE CONTACTS. SAME SOURCE TELLS US THAT REASON SECOND SESSION NOT SCHEDULED UNTIL SEPT 29 WAS TO AVOID SPECTACLE OF DEADLOCK--A STRONG POSSIBILITY IN EARLY SESSIONS--WHILE FIGHTING HAD STILL NOT DIED DOWN.

8. NEWSPAPERS REPORT FOOD SUPPLY IN BEIRUT IS GOOD IN ALL AREAS AND THAT FOOD PRICES ARE ONLY SLIGHTLY ABOVE NORMAL. TO ALLEVIATE FLOUR SHORTAGE IN SOUTH, GOVERNMENT IS TRUCKING GRAIN TO SIDON. ARMY IS BOTH CLEARING TRACKS AND PROVIDING ESCORT FOR TWO-THREE TRAINLOADS OF FUEL OIL DAILY FOR BEIRUT'S POWER GENERATING PLANTS. GASOLINE TANKER SHIP IS BEING UNLOADED TODAY AT MOBIL PORT AT DORA NEAR BEIRUT, AND DISTRIBUTION WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY. MOBIL, WHICH IS COORDINATING GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL DISTRIBUTION, BELIEVES "GIFTS" FROM EAGER FILLING STATION OPERATORS WILL OVERCOME RELUCTANCE OF TANKER TRUCK DRIVERS TO CROSS PROFESSIONAL LINES. ALTHOUGH SOME AREAS OF BEIRUT ARE UNLIKELY TO HAVE GASOLINE AS LONG AS ANY FIGHTING CONTINUES, THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE

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COUNTRY, THE MOUNTAIN AREAS, AND THE BAKAA VALLEY ARE NOW WELL-SUPPLIED FROM MEDRECO REFINERY NEAR SIDON. IPC REFINERY IN TRIPOLI IS MAKING SOME DELIVERIES IN THAT AREA. BUTANE AND AVIATION FUEL TANKER SHIPS REMAIN OFF SHORE.

9. IN OTHER AREAS OF THE ECONOMY, PORT AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED WORKERS TO REPORT TO DUTY ON MON, SEPT 29. BECAUSE BANKS HAVE NOW BEEN CLOSED FOR TEN DAYS, MONEY IS IN SHORT SUPPLY. MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION HAS ASKED GOVT INDEMNIFICATION FOR LOSSES. TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND LEBANESE REFUGEES NOW REPORTEDLY IN SYRIA.

10. TH BEST OF EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, ALL AMCITS ARE SAFE EXCEPT AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. IBM HAS CONTINGENCY PLANS TO EVACUATE SOME EMPLOYEES ON MON. IF BEIRUT OFFICE IS STILL UNABLE TO FUNCTION. SMALL SALES STAFF WILL WORK OUT OF PARIS AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS WILL MOVE TO KUWAIT.
GODLEY

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